

Bioenergy Council Conference Meeting Notes

July 8, 2013

Teleconference held at 10:00 AM

Members Participating: Jamie Derr (Co-Chair), David Donovan (Co-Chair), Andrew Fiene, Earl Gustavson (Representing Jeff Landin), T.J. Morice, Gary Radloff, Keith Reopelle, Bob Sather, **Agency Staff Participating:** Amanda Mott, Dave Siebert, Deborah Erwin, Sara Walling, Roger Kasper and Ty Rohloff

Welcome and Introductions (Jamie Derr)

Jamie started the meeting with going down list of participants and having them introduce themselves. During introductions, members whose terms have ended were also to state whether they were able to commit to another term. By the next meeting DATCP staff will contact everyone for final agreements before names submitted to Ben Brancel for renewal.

Review the Statutory Purpose and Council Functions (Dave Donovan)

Dave provided a general overview of the purpose of the council and the establishment under s. 15.137(6), Stats. Dave emphasized the main functions of the committee, which are to meet and review the sustainability guidelines annually and report to the agencies and stakeholders at least biennially. Details at:

http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Environment/pdf/Bioenergy%20Council_Structure_and_Membership_Procedures.pdf

Review current membership (Dave Donovan)

Dave lead a discussion of the empty “Tribal representative” and “Wildlife organization representative” positions. Suggestions were given, including a tribal representative from the Oneida Nation and a wildlife representative from the Ruffed Grouse Society. It was mentioned that Wisconsin County Forester’s Association may also have some suggestions. Various members were going to work with their contacts to see who else may be a good candidate to submit to Secretary Brancel for consideration.

Sara also mentioned that the inclusion of someone with either banking experience or an economist would be a good addition to the council and would be considered by Secretary Brancel. The group believes this additional appointment would add a financial sustainability and current reality viewpoint plus possible additional thoughts on alternative business models available for the council’s consideration.

Sustainability Guidelines Review and revision (Dave Donovan)

The Guidelines are required to be reviewed on an annual basis and Council is to report on its findings biennially. Sara, Dave and Jamie have taken a preliminary look and did find at least

some updates on data in charts and status of studies that could be incorporated in the new version. It was suggested that every Council members review the document and share possible edits or questions that they feel could be reviewed for updates. The collected highlights of potential changes will be shared with members of the technical team for evaluation and incorporation in the updated version of the guidelines. The Department is looking for all suggested changes to be submitted by August 16th of this year, so that changes can be evaluated, incorporated by technical team and final draft of guidelines made and submitted by the end of the year. ***By August 16th provide your comments to Ty Rohloff, Amanda Mott and Sara Walling.***

Scott Hull one of the key technical advisors has other commitments and will not have time to offer support. He will be contacted to see if there is someone he knows who would be willing to help out. Others are tentatively ready to review the guideline and submitted comments.

Future Meeting Content ~ Member Updates of Industry: (Jamie Derr)

Member Updates: Numerous things have been going on since the group last met. Bob Sather announced that Ace Ethanol has started on an upgrade that will allow them to make cellulosic ethanol from waste wood chips. [Press release 1/4/13](#). A discussion included talk of carbon pollution standards and the effect it would have on coal power plants as well as natural gas plants as a secondary focus. New Hampshire is considering thermal energy as part of their RPS. Current topics in the state are focusing on an idea of third party ownership models. The proposed property tax exemption for renewable energy projects was incorporated into the State Budget. Deb of PSC provided a current review of the status of the petition to PSC to open a docket for PSC 119, utility interconnection standards. The State Energy Office is currently working on two grants. One focused on wood energy projects that would have some funds for a biomass working group. The other is a grant that would promote a streamlined system, utilizing best practices, for combined heat and power systems as well as industrial energy efficiency. Amanda Mott from the SOE had given an update about Baker-Tilly's financial assessment model they are working on. This system is close to being updated. This will be an enhanced application for those considering bioenergy based projects. Sara reviewed the recent changes to gradually transfer the Council administration to Ty Rohloff, the new manager of the Rural Electric Power Services (REPS) program.

Future Topics: Interest was expressed in hearing more updates at the next meeting. A few specific topics that fit into the next agenda item were to be flushed out for discussion and development of the initial draft of an updated council policy issue/recommendation report for 2013.

Policy and Topic Recommendations from 2012 (Sara Walling)

During the June 25, 2012 meeting Sara shared the five draft recommendations that were compiled by the various subgroups of the council. Each recommendation was read and committee members were asked to think about them between now and next meeting. ***By September 15, 2013; provide Ty Rohloff, Amanda Mott and Sara Walling your ideas on refining or reevaluating specific items in the council's policy issue/recommendation report based on updates in the industry or Federal/State policy changes.***

Next Steps (Sara Walling)

In closing, the co-chairs thanked members for their participation. A reminder was given to:

- 1) *Submit comments on the Guidelines by August 16th***
- 2) *Submit thoughts on specific items in the council's policy issue/recommendation report by September 15th.***
- 3) *Sign up on Doodle with their availability for an early October meeting (Sept. 30 – Oct. 4).***
<http://www.doodle.com/5k95fyszk7bkdni2>

Meeting adjourned.